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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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# REPORT

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COUNTRY

## Rumania

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**SUBJECT**

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INFORMATION ON SOVIET MILITARY ACTIVITY IN FINLAND

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SOVIET GROUND FORCES

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Many Soviet soldiers and officers have been seen by the source in the streets of Ploesti. The units to which these men belong is not known to the source. The Soviet troops are quartered in the barracks formerly occupied by Romanian troops who have been moved and now are quartered in temporary billets.

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There is a Soviet unit, of unknown strength and branch, quartered in a five-story, 100 x 50 meter building (the former headquarters of the officers of the Rumanian State Railroad) opposite the main railroad station in Iasi. There is a guard at the entrance armed with a drum-fed automatic rifle. According to the source, this is the only Soviet unit quartered in Iasi.

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A Soviet antiaircraft unit is quartered in the former hospital on via Tradian, opposite the public gardens (on the northern edge of Galati). The armament observed includes 20 to 25 80-millimeter pieces with muzzle brakes, mounted on carriages with four pneumatic-tired wheels and some GMC trucks, three-axle and two differentials. There is a roving guard at the entrance armed with a drum-fed automatic rifle.

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There are unidentified armored units quartered at Galati in barracks on via 1 May (formerly Tecuci). War damages to these barracks is now being repaired; the source heard that the repairs have been completed.

Soviet units are quartered in the "Trei Pionieri" barracks on via Traian. The complex is surrounded by a 2-meter-high white stucco wall.

About 100 men assigned to guard duty at the medical supply depot are quartered in a four-story building on the former via General Bertealu.

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The Soviet headquarters in Iasi are in a former civilian building, three-story, on the former via Carol between the Carol Foundation and the university, 800 meters north of the railroad station. The headquarters are on the east side of the street and many low-ranking officers have been seen there.

Soviet troops, at least more than 3,000, are quartered in the Socola district (near Iasi) in a large number of wooden barracks erected near the railroad station. Socola is an important Soviet center.

There are persistent rumors that three Soviet divisions and a large staff of Soviet officers will be located at Iasi. The supporting evidence of such rumors are:

1. On 23 - 24 April, the 24th Rumanian Infantry Regiment evacuated camp.
2. On 21 April, all Rumanian officers who had been in the former IV Corps headquarters began to move.
3. The large hotel, formerly the Traian Hotel, which was to be remodeled for civilian use, has remained vacant upon direct orders from high authorities. The remodeling has not yet started.
4. On 10 April, the displacement of all ammunition and materiel in the Danic depot was under way.

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The headquarters of the Soviet Command at Bucharest is located in the building formerly occupied by the German Embassy on calea Victoria near the Ministry of Finance. There is a Soviet guard at the entrance. Many American-made automobiles are parked here, and high-ranking Soviet officers have been seen.

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Soviet troops of unknown strength and branch are located in Timisoara.

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A large contingent of Soviet troops of unknown branch is located at Urziceni. The source learned this indirectly.

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[redacted]

An unknown number of Soviet officers are quartered in a score of small country houses in Parc Filipescu, on the northern outskirts of Bucharest. All the streets leading to this section are blocked and guarded.

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[redacted]

A unit of Soviet truck-drawn heavy artillery (perhaps a regiment) was billeted in the Generale Bragaline Barracks at Medgidia. The barracks are 500 meters southeast of the railroad line to Bazargic. The source observed about 30 pieces of artillery of undetermined type and caliber which had muzzle brakes and were mounted on two rubber-tired wheels. The pieces also have limbers. There were ten "I A S" GAZ 3- and 5-ton trucks for hauling the pieces. There was a sentry at the entrance with a drum-fed submachine gun. In the center of the yard, there was a 7- or 8-meter wooden pole surmounted by a red star which was illuminated at night. A red star, illuminated at night, over the main door was flanked by pictures of Stalin and Lenin.

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[redacted]

At Eforia, Soviet soldiers (branch and strength unknown) are lodged in about 200 cabins in the former seaside resort. These soldiers have been seen riding in heavy trucks and American jeeps.

There is a Soviet military unit (branch and strength unknown) lodged in about 50 cabins on the shore at Mamaia.

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[redacted] (Galati)

There are Soviet tank units in the barracks on strada Traian. Infantry units of unknown strength are lodged in the barracks on strazi Traian and Tecuci.

[redacted] (Bucharest)

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[redacted]

The MVD headquarters is in the former Regi Mihai I barracks at Otopeni. The above information was given to the source by a Soviet naval officer.

The source had a small farm, on which he raised geese, by Lake Smeorevli, where 30 to 40 Soviet officers from Bucharest used to come to fish almost every Sunday. The source remembers the following Soviet personnel:

General Zabelin, commandant of Soviet forces in Bucharest

Captain (Navy) Kisilov

Major (Infantry) Vesiliv of the Soviet Commandatura in Bucharest

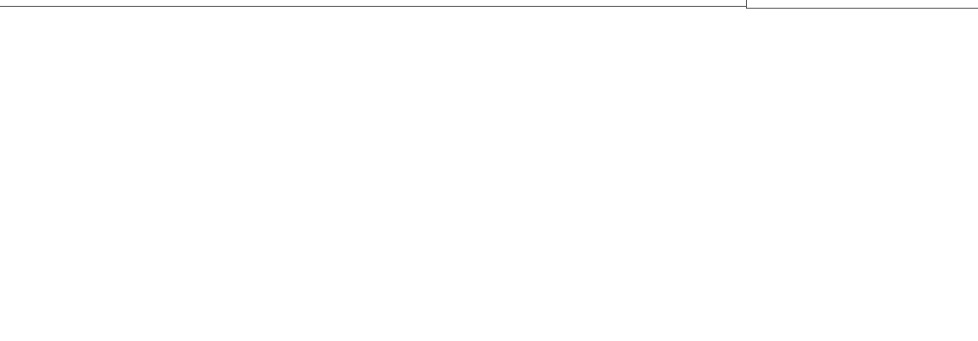
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The Soviet Liaison Office is located in the building of the Minister of Defense in Bucharest.


An undetermined number of Soviet troops are housed in the "Voivoda Mihail" barracks at Otopeni. The barracks are located about 1,000 meters south of the town and 500 meters north of the Bucharest belt line railroad. The source saw medium tanks and small-caliber artillery pieces in the yard of the barracks. The source believes that there is some headquarters here because the officers' activity is greater than would be expected from the number of troops.



There is a Soviet headquarters in the Iasi railroad station. The commander has the grade of major and the post has control of all railroad convoys.



While on the train that was taking him to Italy, the source observed one or two Soviet officers or men boarding the train at the Focsani, Buzau, and Ploesti stations.

 an indefinite number of Soviet units were garrisoned at Focsani.

There are no units or individual Soviet soldiers in Bacau.

#### SOVIET AIR FORCE



The airfield at Pipera, 2,300 x 1,500 meters, is occupied by the Soviet Air Force. Most of the buildings and installations were destroyed by war damage. The field has a natural surface without a landing strip. There is a 2.5-meter high wall of cement around the field. There are five iron hangars with semicircular corrugated sheet-iron roofs and the approximate dimensions 50 x 20 x 10 meters.

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There are two brick buildings of undetermined size with three or four stories. In these buildings are housed the field administration, various offices, and a part of the personnel. The rest of the personnel is housed in wooden barracks near the Herastau railroad station. The officers and pilots live in requisitioned civilian dwellings.

There is a Soviet soldier, armed with a PPSH submachine gun with a drum magazine, on guard at the entrance to the airfield.

Five or six single-engine, two-place biplanes have been observed at this field. These machines are of wood and fabric, with wooden propellers, similar to those used by RATA (Rumanian Civil Airlines). The exact model is not known.

[redacted] there is a night-flying school attached to the field. The field is equipped for night lighting with three 1.5-meter reflectors which are used only for landings and takeoffs. If the weather permits, flights of one or two ships take off at night for a 30-minute flight. There are successive flights during the night. The pilots, number unknown, who are taking night training are all Soviet Air Force personnel.

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Uniforms: olive drab; epaulets with insignia of two hawk wings spread; olive drag cap with black leather chinstrap; metallic ornament with a varnished red star and a hammer and sickle in gold.

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The airfield near Buzau is reportedly occupied only by Soviet Air Force personnel and ships.

#### TROOP AND SUPPLY MOVEMENTS

[redacted]

Convoys of armored vehicles pass through Galati two or three times a month on their way from Reni to the west. The railroad convoys which formerly were very frequent to and from the west have now dropped off to almost nothing. In October 1945, the source noted lighters loaded with armored vehicles leaving the port of Galati for the west. Each vessel carried 10 to 15 medium tanks.

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[redacted]

In 1948, many rail convoys of troops and vehicles passed from Chitila to the Yugoslav border via Pipesti. Bucharest had no Soviet units left. The source reports rumors that these troops were sent to Turnu-Severin. About the end of December 1949, the source noted some Soviet convoys sent from Chitila toward the east.

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[redacted]

[redacted] movements of Soviet troops from Bucharest toward the south, Giurgiu, by road and railroad. No additional information.

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[redacted]

[redacted] rumor that Soviet and Rumanian troops are massed along the Rumanian-Yugoslav border.

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Numerous railroad convoys of Soviet equipment passed through Bacau. The convoys came from Iasi (the end point of Soviet-gauge railroad) with a destination of Focsani, Ploesti, etc. The convoys were composed of tanks and artillery and moved only at night with covered cars. The source obtained the information from some railroad workers.

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Convoys of troops, heavy tanks, and artillery of various types and calibers passed through Cernavoda in the direction of Medgidia. The source affirms that such movements of men and equipment continued during October toward Bulgaria.

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A military train passed a passenger train on which the source was riding near the Barlad railroad station. The military train had 35 flatcars, 12 meters long, on each of which a covered, medium tank was loaded. The source noted the muzzle of a gun on a tank and thought it was about 75 millimeters. The cannon had a muzzle brake. In addition to the 35 flatcars with tanks, there were also 15 closed freight cars. The train was headed toward Barlad.

This train stopped at a station about 20 kilometers from Tecuci (between Tecuci and Barlad), where another train of exactly the same size and freight had also stopped. The two trains were on a side track. Soviet guards with PPSH automatic rifles patrolled the right of way beside the train. On each flatcar, the silhouette of a guard with his automatic rifle in the "ready" position was visible.

(Socola)

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There is a large Soviet logistics center at Socola. The Socola railroad station is the terminus of the Soviet-gauge railroad and is the main depot and distributing point for materiel. Four Soviet-gauge lines have recently been completed, coming from the recently annexed Bessarabia. Large brick warehouses, barracks, ramps, and all other installations necessary for the proper operation of a transshipping point have been erected at Socola. The standard-gauge lines are integrated with the Soviet-gauge. Most of the materiel, weapons and ammunition, equipment, and provisions coming from the Ukraine for the Soviet troops in Rumania, Bulgaria, and probably Hungary are transshipped and classified at the Socola yard. The goods of Rumanian origin for the USSR are also transshipped at Socola. The barracks which have been erected for the troops are prefabricated wooden buildings.

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During the past half year, many rail convoys have arrived in Rumania, especially in Radauti, from the USSR. The convoys brought mainly cannons, tanks, and other war materiel. The source heard that the destination of these convoys was the Yugoslav border.

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Rail convoys from the USSR with the destination the Rumanian-Yugoslav border, according to rumors, have passed through Iasi during February. The following convoys were observed:

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30 long flatcars each with a Stalin-type tank, armed with a 75-millimeter gun. The military escort was carried in two boxcars, one at each end of the train.

26 long flatcars each with a tank. Some of the tanks were T-34 and some were lighter.

30 short flatcars, each with a new ZIS truck. The small military escort rode in a passenger car.

46 short flatcars each with an antiaircraft gun, identified by the sources as 40-millimeter, Model 33, Bofors guns. The military escort, under command of a captain, rode in two boxcars at the end of the train.

#### RESTAURANT FOR SOVIETS

In March 1950, a restaurant for the exclusive use of Soviet soldiers and their families was in operation on strada Gamuglia in Galati.

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#### SOVIETS KILL RUMANIAN GAME

The Soviets respect neither season nor place in their hunting. They have exterminated all the game in the royal park of Smoviste, which is about 10 kilometers from Buftea on the highway to Stalin town. For Rumanians, there are strict game laws, and violations are heavily fined. Each Rumanian hunter must pay a hunting tax and give part of his bag to the "General Hunting Association of Rumania." one hare or 500 lei, or two rabbit skins or 200 lei. The Soviet officers were glad to buy feathers paying 300 lei for the green feathers of ducks and 1,000 lei for goose down.

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